

Salem Lamartine 11:00 8/10/69

\*Processional Hymn 249 ST PETER

\*Choral Call to Worship

\*Confession of Sin

\*Assurance of Pardon

Bible Scripture I Samuel 16: 1-13

Zoria Patri

\*Apostles Creed

\*Pastoral Prayer

Anthem

Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS

LADIES AID BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

109 NAMES 104 ANNIVERSARIES

TURN INTO ANY LADY AND

END OF SEPT. DEADLINE

Offering Response, Prayer

Hymn 265

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

\*Hymn 222

\*Benediction

\*Threefold Amen

## Men of God's Choosing

Text: 1 Samuel 16; 7b

"God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but Yahweh looks at the heart."

"God does not see as man sees; man looks at ~~the~~pearances, but Yahweh looks at the heart." This is what God spoke to Samuel when he was on the mission for God choosing the man to be anointed king. Samuel looked at the strong tall sons of Jesse, and kept thinking this must be the one. But at each one the Lord said no, not ~~the~~ one. At last Jesse had run out of sons, and Samuel inquired if he did not have one more. Jesse said he had, but that he was out tending sheep. So they brought David in before Samuel and God told Samuel this one was it. So Samuel anointed him on the spot. This ~~little~~ <sup>LITTLE</sup> story is a wonderful story for it has so many messages in it. I have always liked to hear it because with each of the characters you can almost see them before your eyes. There is Samuel along with Jesse standing and waiting for each of the sons to come forward. And each son is different from the last one in many respects. Some are taller, some are short, some are athletic looking while probably a few look scholarly. And yet out of the entire group, the one chosen is the least likely. This is one big object lesson. To know that God selects His people in an altogether different way than we would. Look at the men God has chosen to be the men of the hour at different times in the Bible. Moses, a tongue tied individual who needed his brother Aaron to speak for him. King David, a mere sheep herder. The Apostle Paul, a very unimposing shrimp of a man, who persecuted believers in the Son of God. Peter, a poor fisherman and an uncouth person. These are just some of the heroes of the Bible. Heroes who were far from imposing figures as men. Yet men who were what God wanted. Men who were willing to gamble their very life on the promises of God. We may well ask, why they followed so blindly and ~~wickedly~~ believed so trustingly. The answer is the same as ~~that~~ it would be if we asked why men followed ~~for instance on~~ Hitler. Why they followed Stalin? Why they follow any leader of men? It is because they believe. That is the only answer we can give. They do not doubt for one second that their leader is wrong. This is what we as Christians are to have as followers of Christ. But too often we stand and ask, "should I, or do I dare do this?" And we find that our answer is determined by not what Jesus would say, but what would

our neighbors say if we did this. Or what will our friends think of us? We tend to place our motivation on the whims and the judgements of humans. Our motivation should be to work for the Lord and if there are those who scoff and sneer, then at them. We are not living this life to please mankind, we are living it to do the will of God. If this means alienation of our friends or our families, then this is what it must be. A friend of mine married a girl of the Roman Catholic faith. This girl decided that she could not accept the Catholic teaching in many areas. She became a member of the United Church of Christ. Both she and her husband were fairly active members for a while. Then they drifted off and became like many people, church members without a church. A name on the roles. But because she turned her parents ignored her. Her old friends treated her with contempt. It got so bad that her mind began to become affected. Finally she was seeing a psychiatrist or a physiologist. Her problem stemmed from guilt feelings about leaving the Catholic church. She had been taught from little on that if she wasn't Catholic she did not belong to the one true church. She rejoined the Catholic church and the last I heard she was back to normal. Now this story could have had another ending had circumstances been different. Had her husband been the stabilizing influence he should have been, I believe they could have solved this problem without the girl almost going out of her mind. Had he been the strong Christian he should have been she could have remained protestant and not felt guilty about it. Now I am not saying that The United Church of Christ is The church and there are no others. I do not believe this at all. But what I am saying is that a person from another religion should be able to accept the religion of her partner with <sup>our</sup> feeling guilty. If their love was strong enough they could have faced the ridicule of friends and relatives. The husband could have helped his wife to see that she was not all wrong in joining another church, that God accepts us and this is all that matters. It matters not whether we go to the U.C.C. or the Lutheran Church or wherever, just so we strive to Follow God. And here again the point is brought out that God will accept us when our fellowmen will reject us.

One other point about this story in Samuel is that it shows us a different kind of thinking than we are accustomed to. We tend to think in terms of appearance. If a person looks nice we like him. But if he looks like a bum we tend to reject him. Appearances can be deceiving. But the one verse in this

story ~~is~~ that tells us the true secret is the latter part of verse 7, "God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but Yahweh looks at the heart."

God looks at the motive behind the deed in other words. He is looking at the real self of whoever it might be. We have heard this before, but it bears repeating and that is the fact that we all wear different faces many times during a week or even for a day. We are not always our true selves. Too often we are putting on a bit of a front. It's like the title of a book I read about just recently. It's called, "Will the Real Phony Please Stand Up." We can put on all the airs we care to, but we can't fool God. ~~WE ARE ALL LIARS, WE ARE ALL FRAUDS, WE ARE ALL DUMBS.~~ ~~IT'S~~ sort of like the able bodied loafer who hung around the railroad yards and would hop a freight now and then but he never did amount to much. One day as he was taking a shortcut through the yards he happened to spy a small glittering object on the sidewalk. He stooped and picked it up and without looking at it very closely he pinned it to his coat. A few minutes later he collided into the side of a slow moving freight and was knocked insensible. Someone called the dispatcher and he called the yardmaster's assistant to go see what he could do. A few minutes later he phoned back that the man would have to be taken to the hospital. The yardmaster told him to go back and identify him somehow so they could notify his relatives. A few minutes later the assistant called back that he could find no identification on him but that he learned the man was Mrs. Macabee, it said so on his lapel pin. We can act like little angels when we may really be devils, but we can't fool God. We may put on all the airs we care to, but we can't hide ~~from~~ the truth from God. God knows our innermost thoughts and desires. The Psalmist says that before he even has the word on his tongue God knows it. If we know this and still try to fool God we must be very dumb indeed. But the real point is that God does not look at what a man is wearing. How he looks outwardly, but what he is like inwardly. This is how God chose all of the men who have been His faithful servants down through the years. He looked at their innermost selves. ~~HE~~ He looked into their very soul and when He discovered that they were God fearing and God loving men who really believed in Him then He put them to doing His work. But people accept other people on outward appearances. Now I know that we are not like God and cannot see into

the heart of man. But it does not take too long to be around people to sort of see what they are really like. Ask anyone who runs some sort of credit business and they will tell you that the ones most likely to try to cheat them out of their money is the ones who are the best dressed, the cleanest and neatest looking people, the ones you would swear that they were completely honest. But too often they are not. ~~they are the ones who are the best dressed, the cleanest and neatest looking people, the ones you would swear that they were completely honest. But too often they are not.~~ These are the people Jesus said to be wary of, the ones who wear lambs clothing on the outside but are really wolves in disguise. We need to search our hearts and our minds to make sure that our motives are always the highest and the best. That our thoughts and our desires are pure and free from hidden motives. This is what God wants of us. The Biblical verse that asks, "What doth the Lord require of thee, to love justice and mercy and to walk humbly with thy God," is what we all need to practice. If we can walk humbly with our God we are indeed on the road to becoming pure of heart. Our duty and our goal each and every day should be to walk as close to the footsteps of Christ as we can. He set the example of being the real true person that loves God and serves Him. And this is the example we should emulate and seek to follow. Let us each resolve anew to seek His help and His strength to live in just this way. Let us pray.